Message Text

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DRAFTED BY L/EA:PMNORTON:MAD APPROVED BY L/SFP:LFIELDS S/NM - MR. RAFFERTY EA/TB - MR. ROBERTS DOJ/NDDS - MR. MCLAUGHLIN S/S MR MOFFAT

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R 200116Z DEC 75 FM SECSTATE WASHDC TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TH

SUBJECT: JASPER MYRICK

REF: BANGKOK 22726

- 1. JUSTICE AND DEA BELIEVE JASPER MYRICK COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION AND TESTIMONY TO STRENGTHEN SIGNIFICANTLY CASE AGAINST MORE IMPORTANT FIGURES IN AMERICAN NARCOTICS RING IN THAILAND, WHO ARE NOW AWAITING TRIAL IN U.S. THEY WOULD LIKE, THEREFORE, TO BE ABLE TO TRY MYRICK IN U.S. IN CONNECTION WITH THE BROADER TRIAL AND GET SUCH TESTIMONY IN EXCHANGE FOR A LESSER SENTENCE. RTG CONCURRENCE WOULD BE NECESSARY TO RELEASE MYRICK TO U.S. FOR TRIAL.
- 2. WE ARE INFORMED THAT DEA REGIONAL DIRECTOR ADDARIO HAS ALREADY SPOKEN INFORMALLY TO THAI POLICE OFFICIALS ABOUT THIS POSSIBILITY. THEY WERE NOT APPARENTLY VERY RECEPTIVE TO HIS SUGGESTION, PREFERRING TO TRY MYRICK THEMSELVES. CONFIDENTIAL

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JUSTICE AND DEA HAVE PROPOSED THAT WE RAISE THIS MATTER

WITH HIGHER-LEVEL RTG OFFICIALS.

3. WE UNDERSTAND WHY RTG MIGHT WISH TO PROSECUTE MYRICK THEMSELVES. EXTENSIVE PRESS COVERAGE AND PUBLIC ATTENTION ON THIS CASE MAY, MOREOVER, MAKE IT DIFFICULT FOR RTG TO

RELEASE MYRICK TO USG EVEN IF IT OTHERWISE WISHES TO DO SO. NEVERTHELESS, WE BELIEVE THAT BROADER USG AND RTG INTEREST IN IDENTIFYING AND PROSECUTING TOP FIGURES IN NARCOTICS OPERATION WARRANTS CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSAL IN PARA 1 BY HIGHER-LEVEL RTG OFFICIALS.

- 4. WE WOULD, THEREFORE, SUGGEST THAT EMBASSY MAKE LOW-KEY APPROACH TO HIGH-LEVEL MINISTRY OF JUSTICE OFFICIALS PROPOSING THAT MYRICK BE TURNED OVER TO USG FOR PROSECUTION. YOU SHOULD ACKNOWLEDGE THE THAIS' INTERESTS IN PROSECUTING MYRICK THEMSELVES AND EXPRESS COMPLETE USG WILLINGNESS TO DEFER TO THE RTG'S PRIMARY JURISDICTION IN THIS CASE IF THEY DO STRONGLY PREFER TO EXERCISE THAT JURISDICTION. YOU SHOULD NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT U.S. IS NOW PROSECUTING THE MORE SIGNIFICANT FIGURES IN THIS NARCOTICS RING AND THAT MYRICK'S TESTIMONY COULD BE VERY IMPORTANT IN GAINING CONVICTION. USG AND RTG BOTH HAVE AN INTEREST IN CONVICTING THESE TOP FIGURES.
- 5. FINAL DETERMINATION ON DESIRABILITY OF MAKING THIS SUGGESTION TO THAIS AND ON MANNER IN WHICH IT SHOULD BE MADE DEPENDS IN LARGE PART ON EMBASSY ASSESSMENT OF HOW THAIS PERCEIVE THIS ISSUE AND HOW EASILY THE RTG COULD HANDLE IT DOMESTICALLY. IF EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT RAISING THIS PROPOSAL IN THE SUGGESTED MANNER WOULD BE INADVISABLE, PLEASE SO INFORM US. KISSINGER

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To: BANGKOK

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